

Soldiers Gain No-Cost College Credit for NCOES

By SGM John Weiske

Recently, an American Council on Education (ACE) evaluation team reviewed the Program of Instruction (POI) of all USASMA-generated NCOES courses. Each POI was analyzed for its content and depth of material as compared to college level studies and classified into major areas of concentration. The team then determined the college course equivalency and the amount of credit hours earned for the instruction.

The BNCOC and ANCOC recommended credits are from the evaluation of the Common Leader Training portion of the course, which is USASMA's responsibility. Each proponent school is responsible for the additional MOS instruction and ensuring that the entire course is evaluated by ACE.

It's important to note that the Battle Staff NCO Course wasn't previously evaluated by ACE and graduates of the course haven't been able to receive corresponding college credit for the course. Battle Staff NCO Course graduates should now consider applying for an update on their Servicemembers Opportunity College Agreement (SOCAD) to have the recommended credit from BSNOCOC applied to their college transcript.

This ACE evaluation included the Sergeants Major Course nine-month POI, which will allow the present class to receive college credit upon graduation in June of 1996. Since the POI was extended from 22 weeks to 40 weeks, the course increased from 18 to 22 recommended credit hours, 11 hours of which are considered upper level (junior/senior) instruction.

All ACE-recommended credit for NCOES and other Army training courses is listed in the Guide to the Evaluation of Education Experience in the Armed Services publication. This guide is located in ev-

ery Army Education Center and provides the education counselor a means of evaluating the soldier's military training toward college equivalency credit.

Each college reserves the right to accept or reject the ACE recommendations for credit as there is no guarantee that the college will accept the credit as listed in the ACE guide. All Servicemember Opportunity Colleges will evaluate military training using the ACE Guide and will apply the recommended credit toward a degree plan. In most cases they will not transcript duplicated credit.

The soldier must complete a DD Form 295, Application for the Evaluation of Learning Experience During Military Service, at his or her servicing personnel office and provide a certified copy to the education counselor. The counselor will ensure that all information is correct and add the corresponding ACE evaluation numbers. The DD 295 is then sent to the college for evaluation. Any time a soldier is evaluated at a different college a DD Form 295 must be submitted for evaluation by that college. These hours will not transfer from one college to another as a transcript course does.

The ACE-recommended college equivalency hours are at no cost to the soldier or the government and are based strictly on the evaluation of the course POI. As a school's POI is changed or substantially amended it should be re-evaluated by ACE to ensure soldiers are receiving the maximum amount of credit as they complete their MOS or NCOES development training. ■

Weiske is school secretariat for the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy, Ft. Bliss, TX.



At Ft. Benning...

BASE H

By SSG David Abrams

For years, soldiers on their way to NCOES courses have filed into a small room, sat at desks and filled in the bubbles on test score sheets with No. 2 pencils. The examination, the Test of Adult Basic Education, is designed to give Army school officials an idea of the soldier's general knowledge of math, reading and grammar skills. Taking the TABE has become as familiar as packing the duffle bag for PLDC.

Now there's another test on the horizon—one which may eventually replace the TABE with questions specifically designed to evaluate common military leadership skills.

The Basic Army Skills Examination goes even farther than the TABE in measuring a soldier's knowledge of skills related to the military, said Bill Kinnison, an education services specialist with